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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 95% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 60,950 | Nifty 18,117 | Gold 50,875 | Silver 60,616 | Dollar 82.03 | Euro 81.30 | GBP 92.61

PAGE 3

With most businesses shut, rundown shopping complex at upmarket neighbourhood a classic case of BDA's negligence, inefficiency, apathy

A COMPLEX ISSUE

'Among 18 shops, only four are open'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) commercial shopping complex situated at the 1st Cross, RMV Extension of Sadashivanagar, has become an eyesore for the residents of the posh area.

The shopping complex is a classic example of the BDA's negligence, inefficiency and apathy.

"The shopping complex, meant for the benefit of residents, has become a nuisance. Many people are using the complex as a smoking zone. I have stopped visiting the shopping complex," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

At the shopping complex, vacant shops with shutters down, broken electric meters, abandoned broken furniture, and dampened walls greet the visitors. One can find a few individuals busy smoking on the premises.

"Not many residents visit this shopping complex. Most of the shops are closed. I think only four shops, including a small eatery, are functioning," said Jayaram L, one of the tenants of the shopping complex.

The tenant who maintains an eatery said the BDA engineer is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"The BDA has not appointed a person to maintain the restrooms. We have to engage people to clean the restrooms

— tenant

Gaseous Play

Palike floats tender for scientific landfill at Baiyappanahalli, 4 leachate collection points at Mittaganahalli, Kannur at cost of Rs 82 crore

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To capitalise on the methane gas produced at landfills, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has decided to opt for a scientific landfill at the new landfill site being planned at Baiyappanahalli.

Methane gas is one of the prominent reasons for landfill fires. Scientific landfills allow for the diversion of the methane gas to be utilised for different purposes.

The plan is part of the larger one-of-its-kind bioremediation project in the country.

Additionally, four leachate collection points are being developed at Mittaganahalli and Kannur landfills.

On Thursday, the Palike floated a tender for the establishment of four leachate collection points at Mittaganahalli and Kannur and called another tender for the development, operation and management of a scientific landfill in Baiyappanahalli at a combined project cost of Rs 82 crore.

The move comes after residents living in and around Mittaganahalli and Kannur landfills complained about the prevailing inhospitable environment.

"We already have one leachate treatment plant; tender for one more has been called. The total capacity of these leachate treatment plants is 1,25,000 litres. Leachate is collected at two points — at the compactor vehicle and the landfill site from percolation. This leachate needs to be processed; we are planning to upgrade the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Groove it

Foxtrot Marathahalli presents Saturday Pill with DJ Vicky. DJ Vicky is one of the most accomplished and popular DJs present in the circuit since 2005. In 2007, Vicky moved to Glasgow for three years to widen his music and visual art skills, while learning music production. He also curated numerous theme-based parties targeted for the UK student base. Apart from his residency, he toured UK and Europe extensively playing cross multiple nightclubs in Spain, France, Greece during this period.
Where: Foxtrot, Marathahalli, Outer Ring Road
When: Nov 5, 8 PM onwards; Call: 91081 36001

02 Papon, live

Phoenix Marketcity Bengaluru is all set to host an enthralling performance and musical night with Papon. He is a multi-lingual singer and has sung in many languages such as Assamese, Bengali, Tamil, and Marathi. Papon's music is influenced by a variety of sounds from traditional folk to new-age electronica. Known for his stage presence he is sure to enthral audiences. Truly a name to reckon with in the music scene today, Papon's music is sure to touch your heart.
Where: Courtyard, Phoenix Marketcity
When: Nov 5, 6pm onwards

03 Classical melodies

The Shibulal Family Philanthropic Initiatives presents an event called Sangamam aimed on reviving art and culture. Classical musicians Ranjani - Gayatri sisters will be performing at the launch of their first concert. These classical music concerts are being organised to evangelise Carnatic classical music, to raise awareness for the foundation, and to celebrate the founders' contributions to society. **Where: Jyoti Nivas College Auditorium; When: Nov 5, 5 pm onwards**

Under the weather? Get tested for dengue

Doctors advise caution amid rise in number of dengue cases; BBMP denies that there is a surge

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Recent rains coupled with water stagnating in puddles has contributed to this surge in case numbers, explain doctors

In October, around 350 cases of dengue were reported by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Now, city-based healthcare centres have warned about a sudden spurt in dengue cases over the last couple of days. According to many private hospitals, there is a sudden increase in people walking in with viral infection and although the majority of them have mild symptoms, some are getting admitted too.

"There has been a sudden surge in dengue cases over the last two to three days. Most patients turning in for fever are being diagnosed with dengue. This increase is being recorded in both OPD and in-patient admissions. While the majority of the cases are mild, some are getting admitted. On average we are getting two to three admissions daily," said Dr Aravinda SN, internal medicine, Aster RV Hospital.

Since the dengue-causing mosquitoes are most active during the day, office-goers, students and people working from home are the most affected. Most of them are reaching out to hospitals with symptoms such as fever, headache, body ache, giddiness and nausea.

"At least three to four dengue cases are being reported every day now. Few patients complain of extreme weakness with no fever or fever and myalgia. However, these symptoms cannot be neglected and patients should be tested for dengue," said Dr Bindumathi PL, internal medicine, Aster CMI Hospital.

Health experts have attributed this to the surge in recent rainfall which has created a conducive environment for mosquitoes to breed.

"The increase in the rain has created a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. Preventing breeding is the first step toward the prevention of dengue. Stagnant dirty water, whether it is open drains or water collected in garbage piles, is the ideal breeding ground. People must also use insect repellent, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and control mosquitoes inside and outside homes," said Dr Aravinda.

Certain precautionary measures such as not allowing water to stagnate in the neighbourhood-controlled waste disposal and using a mosquito net while sleeping can help prevent the spread of the virus. Doctors also caution against consuming contaminated water and unhygienic practices while eating out.

"People should use mosquito repellents at home and while going out," said Dr Siri Kamath, physician, at BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital.

Health experts say that although specific direct treatment is not available, early diagnosis and symptomatic management are helpful.

BBMP thinks otherwise

However, BBMP's Health Department has denied any increase in the number of dengue cases so far. "We have around 130 hospitals reporting to us regularly and no abrupt increase was recorded till last week. While we recorded 400 dengue cases in the city in September, this number went down to 350 in October," said BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), KV Trilok Chandra.

Officials say the department is anyways conducting regular mosquito control measures such as spraying, fogging and household survey to arrest the spread of the virus.

In October, the department surveyed around 80,000 households across all the BBMP zones and found around 1,000 houses with mosquito larvae.

"Whenever we find dengue larvae during the survey, we create ring-fencing in a 100-metre radius and conduct an intensive survey for that area. We perform source reduction measures and educate people about breeding sites such as flowerpots, empty containers on rooftops, etc. Moreover, we now have 130 private hospitals on our IEC (Information, Education, Communication) platform that are reporting to us continuously. We are also meeting private practitioners across all the zones to ensure better reporting of cases," added Chandra.

Refund fees for those who cancelled admissions: UGC

Any college found violating the guidelines will have to face punitive action, said UGC

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The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked colleges to give back a full refund to those students who had cancelled their admissions.

UGC secretary Prof Rajinish Jain said, "In order to avoid financial hardships being faced by parents, we have decided that full refund of fees should be made by the higher educational institutions on account of all cancellations of admissions/ migrations of students up to October 31, 2022 for the academic session 2022- 2023 as a special case. It is made clear that the entire fee, including all charges, should be refunded up to October 31, 2022.

"Thereafter, on cancellation/ withdrawal of admissions up to December 31, 2022, the entire fee collected from a student should be refunded in full after deducting not more than Rs 1,000 as processing fee. All the higher educational institutions are needed to ensure compliance."

The latest trigger for a fresh circular was after the commission received information in the form of RTI applications/ complaints/ public grievances regarding non-refund fees by some universities and institutions violating the UGC guidelines. Hence, the UGC has now taken a serious view of such complaints.

Any institution found to be violating the guidelines and refusing to refund the fee by giving its interpretation of the guidelines will be liable to face punitive action, he said in a circular.

Cyber security classes

The UGC has recommended colleges to start cyber security courses for under-grad and post-grad students. "The evolution of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and growing security concerns demands a flexible and generally comprehensive approach to the issue of cyber security. A need has been felt to address cyber security broadly, as also in sufficient depth so that even students from non-technical streams will develop a more complete picture of the cyber security issues.

Hence, we have prepared the syllabus with an aim to create more aware, responsive and responsible digital citizens, thereby contributing effectively to an overall healthy cybersecurity posture and ecosystem," said a UGC official.

Bad session: Look before you seek online therapy

Instances of fake online therapists not helping state of mind throws spotlight on veracity of such practitioners

| Shreyashi Mukherjee
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Many who use online therapy for better mental health have revealed that there has been a rise in the number of fake therapists. They say that such therapists end up further deteriorating the state of mental health.

The persons BM spoke to say that these pseudo therapists take advantage of the fact that some people are hesitant to go to in person therapy and resort to online route.

Rita Singh, a college student, said, "I usually am not comfortable going for in person therapies. Online therapy sounds comfortable as I do not have to face anyone, so I signed up for a wellness platform on social media and I paid them the advance as well. However, when the therapy started, the therapist would not ask me any questions. It was just me speaking for the entire session. After it went on for some time, I stopped the sessions. When I tried to get in touch for a refund, no one even received my calls."

Some also experienced their therapists asking for unnecessary personal information.

Shreeja S, working as an IT professional, said, "With the work pressure it is very difficult for me to go for in person therapies. So I started online therapy. However, after my sessions, the therapist asked me for my number and he would send me messages which were not even related to therapy. I really lost trust pm all these apps after this incident."

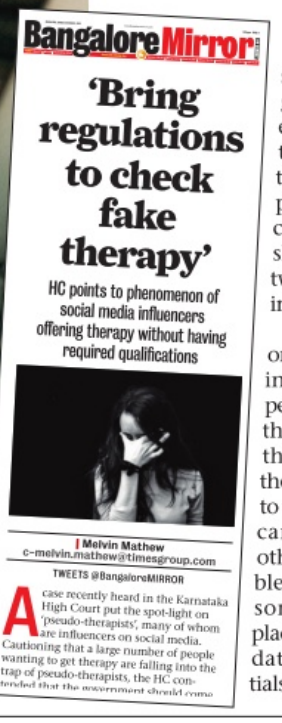
BM had reported on Oct 9 about HC warning about the rise in fake therapy on social media

Some taking online therapy said that because of such kind of incidents, they got even more anxious to seek therapy. Ashish Pandit, who works as a freelancer, said, "I have always been someone who never found opening up to people easy. When I heard about online therapy, I realised it was what I was looking for. However, it did not help me at all. The therapist was only concerned with getting his money at the end of every session. After checking for his profile, I realised he does not even have the required qualifications. This made the concept of therapy even more triggering for me."

Dr Safiya MS, psychiatrist, Mind and Brain Hospital, told BM pseudo online therapy is becoming a big issue these days. "There is a lot of normalisation of mental health which is a good thing but who has to see whom is something that has not been defined. Therapist is an umbrella term and there are a number of diseases. Someone might have a mental illness in which case a diagnosis will be required or might be dealing with a wellness issue. In any case, mental health cannot be put under a single umbrella," she said.

According to Dr Safiya, in order to treat a patient, a therapist should have an M. Phil in psychology and have a licence to practise as well as be RCI registered. "The therapist should also have a good amount of exposure in clinical therapy. In case the therapist has completed MSc in psychology, he or she should have at least two years experience in a hospital set up."

She added that in order to prevent these incidents from happening, it is important that people look into the qualifications of therapists before going to them. "Many things can happen as the other party is vulnerable. So there must be some regulation in place, some way of validating their credentials," she said.



BangaloreMirror

'Bring regulations to check fake therapy'

HC points to phenomenon of social media influencers offering therapy without having required qualifications

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A case recently heard in the Karnataka High Court put the spot-light on 'pseudo-therapists', many of whom are influencers on social media. Cautioning that a large number of people wanting to get therapy are falling into the trap of pseudo-therapists, the HC contended that the government should come

IN BRIEF

Leopard that injured 3 people, caught

#Mysuru

A leopard that sneaked into the residential area and attacked three people on Friday in Kanakanagar in Karnataka's Mysuru district, has been caught.

The people were terrified to see the leopard on the residential streets. While attacking a street dog, it swooped down on the bike rider who was passing by. When the bike rider fell from the vehicle, the big cat attacked him, and after people raised their voices, it ran into bushes.

Later, the leopard attacked two other people. The injured persons were rushed to a local hospital. The forest officials conducted an operation during which they managed to tranquilise the big cat, after which it was caught.

Panicked residents of Kanakanagar heaved a sigh of relief after the leopard was caught. **IANS**

Star-struck: Man throws out wife, son

Police booked an FIR against a man for throwing out his wife and three-year-old son over the pretext that the child would bring bad luck to the family after an astrologer told him so.

The astrologer had told the man, identified as Naveen, a resident of Manjunatha Layout in Channapatna city near Bengaluru that the kid was born in 'Moola Nakshatra', an astrological belief that would bring bad luck and tragedy for the family.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Naveen's wife Shruthi in Ramnagar Woman's police station, police said on Friday. Naveen and Shruthi were married for three years. The couple had a baby boy in 2020. The boy was named Ruthwik. The child was born on 12.42 p.m. on January 22, 2020. An astrologer had said that the kid was born in Moola Nakshatra and it would bring bad luck to the family.

After the visit to an astrologer, it is said that Naveen started harassing his wife and son. **IANS**

Out of site! Construction material thieves around

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Residents of Pulikeshinagar have alleged that some miscreants dressed in BBMP uniform have been stealing construction material from under-construction sites in the area. Residents said they caught one accused on Wednesday and handed him over to Pulikeshinagar police.

The residents allege that people in BBMP uniforms are going to under-construction sites and hauling material to make a quick buck by selling it to scrap dealers. On a rather eventful evening, the residents found three people engaged in the act and managed to nab one accused.

A resident of the area, Mohammed Farooqi, said, "We saw the three people bringing out the construction material and preparing to load it onto a tempo at 6 pm. On-site construction workers and residents became suspicious of the activity and questioned them. Out of the three, two were wearing BBMP uniforms.

Two guys were inside the premises and one was near the tempo arranging the material on the road. We managed to catch one of the accused while the others fled. The accused revealed that they had conducted another robbery the previous night as well."

He added that the accused revealed to the residents that the scam has been going on for quite a time. "The modus operandi is to go to the construction site wearing BBMP uniform to steal material. When questioned, they state that they are from BBMP and have been given orders to collect these materials. These people go towards late evening or early morning for the activity," he added.

Residents caught the three stealing material from this construction site

Residents say that they also spotted a BBMP vehicle being used for the act. Another resident told BM that construction material worth an estimated Rs 20,000 was stolen.

Pulikeshinagar Nagar Police Station Crime Sub Inspector Rumanth Pasha told BM, "We are investigating the case. We managed to nab one. It was the other accused who later fled that had on BBMP uniform. The other two were working for the BBMP office in Benson Road."

BBMP Zonal Commissioner (East) Ravindra PN told BM that he is unaware of the situation. " I will speak to Pulikeshinagar Police Station and get details regarding the case. Accordingly, we will take action."

BESCOM fails to clean up its own mess, yet again

After digging up roads in Thalaghattapura for laying wires, they have not restored the stretch

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Residents of Thalaghattapura have been complaining as their road has not been restored properly after being dug up for the laying of underground cables by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM).

They say it is an inconvenience, especially for school-going children, senior citizens, and two-wheelers riders.

Manjunath, a resident of the area, said that BESCOM started work around six months back, but despite it being two months since completion of their work, the road is still in a bad condition. "It is not just residents who are being affected by this. It is a main road and people from nearby areas, schools, and shops all need to pass through this patch. More than a quarter of the road has been left in an unusable condition," he told Bangalore Mirror.

Residents say that even after several complaints, no one from BESCOM has jumped to solve their problems so far.

"Ideally, they should put jelly on the road after work has been completed and restore it to a proper condition, but none of that has been done. It is almost a stretch of around 1.5 km starting from the new Thalaghattapura police station and lots of schools are nearby. School vans and buses also struggle to pass by this area and it is unsafe for the children who use the road on a daily basis," Manjunath added.

Locals complain that school vans and buses struggle to pass through this area in Thalaghattapura

> **"This 40-50 feet wide road has now become a 20 feet road. In the presence of heavy traffic, it has become a nightmare for people**
>
> –VK Srivatsa, resident

Commuters also said that the road has become dangerous, especially for two-wheeler riders.

VK Srivatsa, another resident, said "This 40-50 feet wide road has now become a 20 feet road.

In the presence of heavy traffic, it has become a nightmare for people, especially two-wheelers, pedestrians, children, cyclists, and senior citizens.

It is the responsibility of BESCOM to restore the road, but they have not done so."

Residents say that they have reached out to BESCOM on their helpline number '1912' as well as taken their concerns to Twitter. However, there has still been no response from the authorities.

When BM tried to reach out to BESCOM, they were unavailable for comment on the situation.

'Deny treatment, get terminated'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A gruesome incident in which a mother and her twin children died has forced the government to take action against erring doctors. The Department of Health and Family welfare has decided to terminate the services of such doctors.

Minister Dr K Sudhakar said, "If doctors and staff in government hospitals misbehave with people, they will be terminated. I will speak to the Chief Minister in this regard, and if needed, we will bring necessary amendments to laws in the next session of the assembly."

Speaking about the death of the pregnant woman and two newborns in Tumakuru District Hospital, Sudhakar said that the six-year old girl who has now lost her mother has been admitted to an orphanage. A fixed deposit of Rs 5 Lakh has been made in the girl's name from the government. The government will also take care of her education. District surgeons, doctors and other staff who were found to be responsible for this have been issued show cause notices and have been asked to respond within 24 hours.

A woman, pregnant with twins, recently died at a Tumakuru hospital

"Incidents like these must never repeat again. In cases of emergency, hospitals should not insist on documents. Documents can be collected after attending to the emergency. There are about 76 notified emergency services and instructions are already in place to not deny or delay treatment in such cases. In case treatment is not available in government hospitals, people can avail it in private hospitals and the government will bear the cost."

> **"In cases of emergency, hospitals should not insist on documents. Documents can be collected after attending to the emergency**
>
> –Minister Dr K Sudhakar

Police have been trying to trace the family of the woman for the last 36 hours. If the family is not identified, the government will take complete responsibility in this case. "Irrespective of which state the woman belongs to, she should have been treated at the hospital on humanitarian grounds. This incident has created a mistrust in the entire public health system," Sudhakar added.

Meanwhile, the issue has turned out to be a political debate. The Congress alleged that the BJP government has failed to protect patients. Reacting to this, the BJP is now trying to pinpoint problems during the Congress government.

Sudhakar said, "I can produce records regarding the number of infant deaths that happened in Mysore when Siddaramaiah was CM. I will produce documents on the number of deaths that happened in government hospitals."

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Unauthorised stalls
Indiranagar

The area behind RTO office, BDA complex in Indiranagar is not clean and has unauthorised stalls.

Pipeline problem
Srinidhi Layout

A new water pipeline laid over a sewage line may damage the latter any time in Srinidhi Layout.

Pavement needed
Yelahanka

There is no footpath between Kogilu Cross and Shreyas hotel in Yelahanka.

Honking, no longer okay in Cubbon Park

The park has officially been deemed as no-honking zone

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KAUSHIK JN

The 'no-honking' sign boards have been put up in Cubbon Park

Honking inside Cubbon Park is illegal now. This comes after the Cubbon Park Horticulture Department along with Bengaluru Traffic Police put up 12 sign boards at various spots inside the park, officially marking it as a 'no-honking' area.

The sign boards were put up by Bengaluru Smart City Ltd on Friday.

"Across the world, central parks located in the hearts of the cities are mostly silent zones. While vehicular traffic is anyway not allowed on some of the roads inside Cubbon Park, noise pollution is still an issue. The sign boards will help us in spreading awareness among the people and will also help the traffic police personnel in implementing the rule," said Rajendra Kumar Kataria, principal secretary, Horticulture Department.

The decision to notify the park as a 'no-honking zone' was taken based on a notification dated June 15, 2020. The notification cited the Motor Vehicle Act of 1988 and the Karnataka Traffic Control Act of 1960 and directed the Cubbon Park Traffic Police station to notify the lung space as a silence zone.

The signboards will be installed in places that are easy to spot by motorists. While honking will be illegal inside the park starting November 4, there will not be any penalty for violators for the time being.

"In the beginning, we will just try to spread awareness about the new rule. We might bring in some penalties only after some time. The purpose is not to collect fines but to make the park habitable for many birds and animals too. Noise pollution causes a lot of harm to them," added Kataria.

BangaloreMirror
Right to remain silent
Cubbon Park is now silent zone; sign boards to be put up by Smart City

Our Oct 11 story covered how Cubbon Park would be deemed as a silent zone

Walkers and social activists have welcomed the move.

They say Cubbon Park is an important space where people go for peace, tranquility and fresh air.

"Cubbon Park is Bengaluru's largest lung space and people visiting the park should experience peace and serenity instead of noise pollution from the traffic," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder, Citizens for Citizens.

Awareness campaign by students

Around 65 students from Mount Carmel College in association with C4C will join hands with the authorities on Saturday morning (November 5) to spread awareness about the new initiative.

"They will hold placards and form a human chain inside the park to spread awareness," said Dr Rajani Kora, coordinator, Institutional Social responsibility Cell, Mount Carmel College.

The campaign will be from 9.30 am to 10.30 am.

Food app's fight against rash driving

Delivery bags come with hotline number for complaints

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

People can call hotline number 8178500500 to report incidents of rash driving by the app's executives

Delivery bags used by Zomato's food delivery executives will have a hotline number printed on them for citizens to report instances of rash driving by the app's executives. This comes after many have reported of food delivery partners flouting traffic rules.

Deepinder Goyal, founder of online food delivery platform, Zomato posted a tweet saying, "As promised earlier, we have started rolling out delivery bags which mention a hotline phone number to report rash driving by our delivery partners. Please remember – we don't incentivise our delivery partners for on time deliveries, nor do we penalise them for late ones."

People can call the hotline number "8178-500-500" and report incidents of rash driving.

Zomato had faced criticism earlier this year when they had assured patrons of a 10-minute delivery.

Goyal in his tweet added, "We don't even tell them what the estimated delivery time is – if someone is speeding, it is of their own accord. Please help us make the traffic on our roads saner."

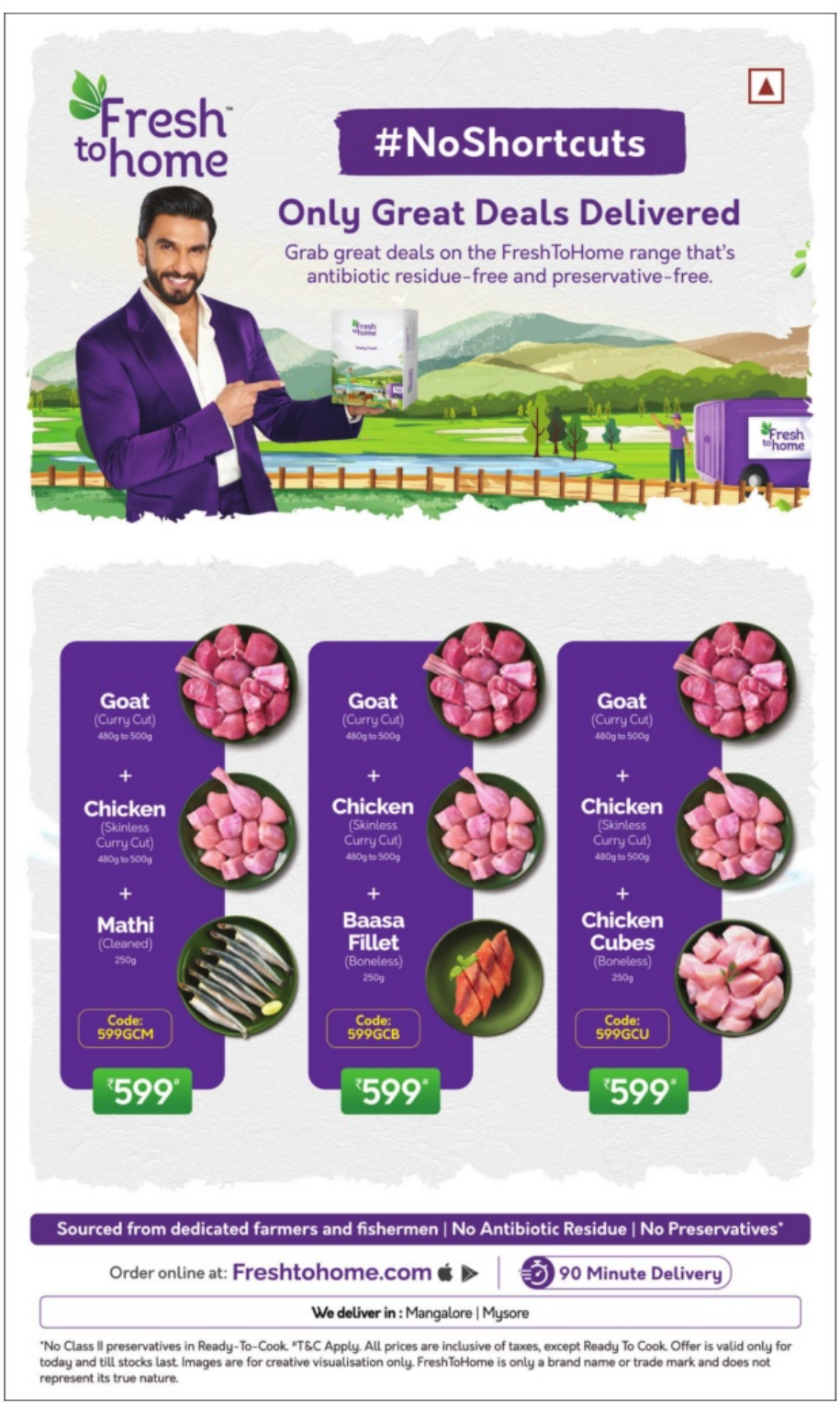
BM tried contacting the hotline to see if it is functioning and an executive picked up the call and asked for the incident's location.

The executive stated that the complaint would be forwarded to a different team and the partner concerned will be tracked and action will be taken.

A Zomato spokesperson said, "These are the new lot of bags we've printed for delivery partners. In case of repeated flags of traffic misconduct, the delivery partner will not be able to log into their Zomato delivery partner app over a course of time."

The spokesperson also added, "While there are no incentives for on-time delivery and penalties for the ones that get late -- we've still had cases of delivery partner rash driving.

"Previously as well, customers had reached out to us to flag traffic misconduct to take action and accidents for us to issue support immediately. We sought the need to have a dedicated helpline where Good Samaritans could reach out to us."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Grab great deals on the FreshToHome range that's antibiotic residue-free and preservative-free.
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₹599*
Goat (Curry Cut) 480g to 500g + Chicken (Skinless Curry Cut) 480g to 500g + Baasa Fillet (Boneless) 250g
Code: 599GCB
₹599*
Goat (Curry Cut) 480g to 500g + Chicken (Skinless Curry Cut) 480g to 500g + Chicken Cubes (Boneless) 250g
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A grand affair!

A large turnout at the Grameena Utsava organised at St Joseph's Boys School in Museum Road on Friday. Students, teachers and parents enjoyed the grand occasion after a gap of three years

Tracking devices mandatory for transport vehicles

Emergency panic buttons and location tracking devices have been made mandatory for all public and private transport vehicles in Karnataka. The decision was taken by the state cabinet on Thursday to "ensure the safety of passengers, especially women and children".

The move is expected to contribute significantly to safety on the highways as the GPS devices will alert the authorities of any overspeeding vehicles.

Briefing the media after the cabinet meeting, state Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said that 6.8 lakh vehicles will come under the ambit of the project to be implemented with support of the Central government.

"60 per cent of the funding will be provided by the Central government, and the state government will bear the remaining costs," Madhuswamy elaborated, adding that one of the aims of the initiative is to curb crimes against women.

Once the project is implemented, the government will centrally monitor the vehicles. This will also enable the government to clamp down on tax evaders and misuse of transport permits, the minister asserted. **–IANS**

Filter coffee for a VVIP coffee person

Starbucks co-founder Zev Siegl enjoyed 'masale dosa' and filter coffee at Bengaluru's heritage South Indian vegetarian restaurant 'Vidyarthi Bhavan', and said he "will take back this wonderful experience to Seattle".

Siegl is in the city to attend the "Invest Karnataka" - Global Investors Meet (GIM), which concluded here on Friday. "We were happy and proud to have Mr. Zev Siegl, Cofounder of Starbucks at Vidyarthi Bhavan. He enjoyed our Masale Dose and Coffee..." Vidyarthi Bhavan said in a tweet. The tweet has pictures of Siegl, co-founder of retail coffee giant Starbucks, enjoying 'masale dosa' and filter coffee, for which the south Bengaluru restaurant is famous, and can also be seen sharing some moments with its owner Ramakrishna Adiga and other staff members. He also clicked some pictures of staff in action. **PTI**

Honor of Doctorate Degree
Mr. Deepak G Appaji (S/o Late M.L. Gurappaji) from Malavalli town, Mandya District is felicitated with the honor of Doctorate Degree in Civil Engineering at Bangalore University for his thesis "Durability Studies on Self Compacting Concrete with Mineral Admixtures and Polypropylene Fibres" under the guidance of Dr. Chethan. K of Civil Engineering Department, Bangalore University.

B'luru to Mysuru to be a smooth road away

3 bottlenecks to be cleared by December-end

It is good news for those travelling between Bengaluru and Mysuru. The major bottlenecks on this highway are likely to be cleared by December 31 this year if the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) keeps its promise.

Mysuru MP Pratap Simha said there are plans to allow traffic movement on the Maddur Bypass and Flyover, Mandya Bypass and Sriranagapatna Bypass by December 31.

The first phase of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway project is up till Nidaghatta (just before Maddur from the Bengaluru side). Till Nidaghatta, major projects have been operational and the vehicles are now allowed to use the Kumbalgodu Flyover, Bidadi Bypass (6.9 km in length) and Ramanagara-Channapatna Bypass (22.35 km). However, due to the ongoing second phase of the work (Nidaghatta to Mysuru) travellers mostly find themselves stuck in traffic.

Briefing the latest update on the highway, Simha said, "Currently vehicle users from Bengaluru have a smooth journey before they hit hurdles at Maddur. The 3.8 km long Maddur Flyover is nearing completion. Once operational, it can save up to 20 minutes of travel time. As of now, the contractors are giving the finishing touches to expansion joints. The expansion joint on the Mysuru-Bengaluru carriageway has been completed while on the other side, it is at the finishing stages (around 10 joints to be completed). We are expecting the entire work of Maddur Flyover to be completed in another fortnight. This will be followed by various tests like load and safety testing. The traffic will be allowed after the tests are successfully completed."

The Maddur, Mandya and Sriranagapatna bypasses that fall on the route from Bengaluru to Mysuru are likely to allow traffic by the end of December

"Vehicles users from Bengaluru have a smooth journey till they hit Maddur. Once operational, Maddur Flyover can save up to 20 minutes of travel time

–Pratap Simha, Mysuru MP

As of now, the incessant rainfall is delaying the compaction work. We have fixed a target of throwing open the entire stretch by December 31 where in-vehicle users can use travelling via the Maddur Bypass/Flyover, Mandya Bypass (ten km) and Srirangapatna bypass (eight km). However, the canal works at Indavala, Boodanur, Hanakere and Gowdahalli are yet to be completed and it may go beyond December 31. There may be minor diversions because of this on the highway, Simha added.

The entire project was to be completed before Dasara this year. However, NHAI claimed that the works have been delayed due to incessant rainfall. Many stretches of the highway were inundated due to lake breaches. The cost of the first phase is Rs 3,501 crore and the second phase is Rs 2,920 crore. This project will have five bypasses to avoid traffic congestion in the towns all along the highway.

Besides this, there will be an eight-km-long corridor and nine major bridges, 44 minor bridges and four railway overpasses. The NHAI authorities claim that once the road is complete, it will be a 75-minute drive from the start to finish of the highway as against three plus hours currently. A new lay-bye with amenities will be created at Ramanagar bypass road. The toll booths will come up at Kumbalagodu and Srirangapatna. **–Prakash VL**

Child-friendly panchayat to protect child rights

Ten-week-long campaign from November 14 to hear out children's issues

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The stage is all set to organise a child-friendly panchayat campaign from November 14 for 10 weeks and conduct one-day Children Special Gram Sabha across the state for the protection of children's rights.

The Commissioner of Rural Department and Panchayat Raj has issued a circular directing Zilla Panchayat Executive Officers, Taluk and Panchayat Executive Officers to make arrangements for conducting the Child-Friendly Panchayats and Children Special Gram Sabhas across the state. "Arrangements have to be made to organise the campaigns at all gram panchayats by following safety measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus from November 14 to January 24, 2023," said the Commissioner in a circular issued on November 2.

Children participating in a Gram Panchayat meeting at Nelludi

Welcoming the circular, Child Rights Trust Executive Director NV Vasudeva Sharma said a survey was conducted at 15 Gram Panchayats in Ballari between 2003 and 2006 on the condition of children and the report was submitted to the Principal Secretary of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj of that time.

Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust said child rights volunteers would also attend the Children Friendly Panchayats.

"There were occasions that many gram panchayats submitted reports claiming that they have conducted such panchayats without conducting them. There are occasions where the panchayat president or members send children home after distributing chocolates without discussing issues. We want to avoid such incidents," said Rao. Rao added that panchayats would enable children to bring their problems to the authorities' notice. "There are some gram panchayats that take decisions on the spot and fix problems without delay. Children can bring the pathetic condition of school buildings, lack of basic infrastructure and other issues to notice," he said.

Mantapa Panchayat Development Officer Ramesh S told Bangalore Mirror the programme is aimed at focusing not only on school children but all children. "The purpose of the programme is to create awareness among the children on their rights. Last year, the programme was held at a school. We are expecting around 200 children to participate in the children-friendly panchayat programme to be held this month," said Ramesh.

Savithri Gauroji, Devasamudra Gram Panchayat Development Officer informed that around 100 children participated in the meeting last year. "We are yet to fix a date for the panchayat this year. We e expect more children to participate in the meeting this month," said Gauroji.

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Why the buzz is in Hesaraghatta, Nelamangala

The Hesaraghatta and Nelamangala roads will soon have direct access to the proposed Bengaluru-Pune-Mumbai Greenfield expressway. According to the plan, the proposed expressway will be connected to the Bengaluru Satellite Ring Road at Muthugadahalli near Doddabelavangala. This road can be easily connected via Nelamangala and Hesaraghatta road.

The Pune-Bengaluru expressway will be 699 km in length with a design speed of 120 kmph. This will have a fresh alignment and will pass via Pune, Satara, Sangli, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Gadag, Koppal, Vijayanagara, Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and Bengaluru rural. This road will take off from Kurse on Mumbai-Pune expressway and will run parallel to the existing highway towards Karjat from where the Pune-Bengaluru expressway construction will be started by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The proposed road will cut down the distance by 95 km and travel time between the two cities from the current 12-14 hours to less than eight hours. This road is expected to have 55 flyovers, 22 interchanges, and 10 river crossings.

The original plan was to construct a Greenfield highway between Bengaluru and Pune. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said that they are now planning for a new alignment from Mumbai-Pune expressway to Pune Ring Road and from there to Bengaluru. This entire project is estimated to cost Rs 45,000 crore. This project will also reduce the distance between Bengaluru and Pune by seven per cent. The detailed project report is being prepared and the average speed permitted would be 100 kmph. The corridor will be designed to withstand a speed of 100-140 kmph. Currently, the Bengaluru-Pune Brownfield highway has among the highest traffic density as it passes via important cities of Karnataka like Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, and Nipani. The travel time between Bengaluru to Pune takes anywhere between 14-16 hours by bus, 18-20 by train, and 12-14 hours by car.

Another Greenfield project connecting Bengaluru is to Chennai, for which work has already begun. This expressway will be connected by the Satellite Ring Road as well. The 262-km-long highway has reduced the travel distance between the Karnataka and Tamil Nadu capitals by 13 per cent, and it is expected that the travel time will reduce to two hours from the current six to seven hours. The road will be 90m wide and vehicles may be allowed up to the speed of 120 kmph. Gadkari said that the entire stretch will be access controlled and provide connectivity to 20.9 million people staying in areas like Kolar, Chittoor, Vellore, Kancheepuram, and Chennai.

Realtors said that many areas beyond Hesaraghatta, which are developing now, will get a big infrastructure boost. "The Nelamangala-Tumakuru corridor has rapidly grown due to the Bengaluru-Pune highway. Now, if a proposed highway comes near Doddabelavangala, the areas in and around Hesaraghatta, Railway Gollahalli, and Nelamangala will get another boost, and those buying property now will reap benefits in the future," said a realtor.

— Prakash VL

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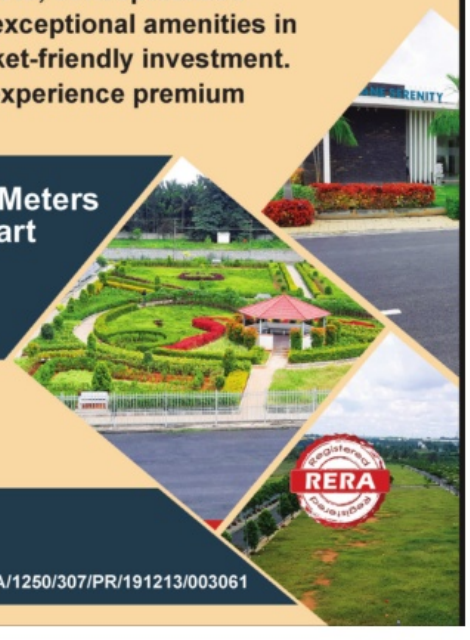

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

EVENING BLUES

This picture was taken at the Chinnapanahalli Lake. It shows how the lake shows a perfect reflection of the sky and the whole scenery around it. This photo was taken right before sunset.

The picture was clicked by reader **Ayush Arya Kashyap**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

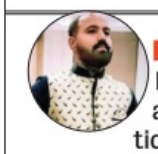
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What is the one thing that is quintessentially Bengaluru?

Jijesh RG, BM Reader
I feel the one thing which is quintessentially Bengaluru is the amazing climate that the city has. There is no other place that I know of with such a soothing climate.

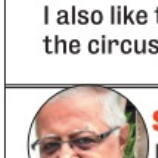
Latika Hurkat, BM Reader
I feel the dosas and Meghna Biriyani is something which is quintessentially Bengaluru. The crisp dosas are to be found no where else.



Rajendra Singh, BM Reader
I feel that the various IT companies as well as the amazing amalgamation of different cultures is something that is quintessentially Bengaluru.

Paavas Nayak, BM Reader
I think the endless traffic and the several potholes on the roads are something that I think is quintessentially Bengaluru.

Sravanthi, Homemaker
My favourite spot in the city is visiting different places of temples in the city and taste different kinds of food. I love to have strong masala tea. I also like to visit weekend events along with the circus, music gigs etc.



Sridhar Comaravalli,
Freelance Cartoonist
By 2 Coffee represents so many emotions to Bengalureans, the most important being the joy of sharing! Also the "adjust madi" culture is shown in a unique way.

SPEAK TO US

Which is your favourite park in the city and how has it changed over time?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Road? No, it's a death trap

Vital route connecting Chikkanayakanahalli and Sarjapur Road broken for months; authorities least bothered, say commuters

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For the last few months, the road -- or what's left of it -- connecting Chikkanayakanahalli and Sarjapur Road has been broken and commuters are in a constant state of anxiety.

The road is used by several school buses as several schools are nearby. Ranjana Sharma, a resident staying nearby, said, "My daughter's school bus takes this route. I am worried when she has to commute. It is only mud and dirty water. The authorities should at least think of the well-being of the kids and fix the road."

The commuters have said that the road was being dug up for construction work months before. However, no action has been taken to fix the road.

Sumith Maheshwari, another resident staying nearby, said that it is a death trap. There is no option for the people to travel in the area. During the rains, the roads become murky with filthy water. People travelling through this road are really risking their lives and the authorities should take some action to provide some respite to the people.

Aravindh K, another resident, said, "I cannot believe the road has turned into this. I used to come here before it was dug up to practice my hill-training interval run but now, when I cannot even believe it was the same place I used to train. Earlier, there was a proper road in place but the authorities have now turned this place into a muddy mess."

The commuters say that despite raising several complaints no timeline has been provided by the BBMP authorities.

Sharath Kumar, a commuter, said, "We have raised this issue several times with the authorities but they did not pay any heed to our requests. They did not even provide a timeline of fixing the road."

Kiran Jain, another commuter, said that unless there was some kind of major protest happening, the authorities will not listen. They are not even thinking about the kids who are using this road on an everyday basis.

A BBMP official said that they would soon finish the work.

The stretch is a vital route linking Chikkanayakanahalli and Sarjapur and commuters have no other alternative

> **"There is no road, it is only mud and water. Authorities should fix it**
>
> – Ranjana Sharma, a parent

DID YOU KNOW?

Commercial Street and Jayanagar may be famous shopping spots in the city, but did you know that the Chickpet market has a sizable wholesale market for sarees and dress materials?
With a history of around 400 years, the market in is one of the most historic commercial street markets.
The wholesale shops in this market possess a huge collection of numerous styles of sarees for different occasions in vivid colours, designs, and patterns.
The place is crowded due to the availability of more than 200-odd outlets that provide multiple styles of clothing, from royal Kanjeevaram saree to formals for men for festivals and events.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

Citizens take tech way to address grievances

Chatbot will allow citizens to actively participate in problem-solving

Iffath Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)'s Sahaaya 2.0 app has not been very effective in tackling citizens' issues. So now a local organisation along with the HBR resident welfare association has come forward to effect a change by creating their own WhatsApp chatbot, that allows residents to put their grievances out there to goad the local officials to address the issue.

After carrying out a pilot for over six months by testing the chatbot in over 20 wards in both low income and high income wards, the chatbot was launched along with the HBR RWA.

Reap Benefit developed the civic tech-governance product with three components: WhatsApp chatbot, Google data sheet and Ward dashboard.

The WhatsApp chatbot can be used for gap analysis -- that is to map the resource and infrastructure gaps in the ward. The analysed data will help draw development plans, allocate municipal budget and track the development of the ward. Secondly, it can be used for grievance redressal, so citizens can report the civic issues of their neighbourhood on the chatbot and check the status of the issue.

Next, the ward dashboard will give a real time analysis of grievances reported in the neighbourhood. This shall help measures to be taken to prevent occurrence of similar grievances and thus take local government from reactive to proactive mode. One can even get contact details of the local government officials to rope them in and solve the civic problems. Further broadcast messages can be sent to citizens to invite them to citizen meetings, campaigns, create polls to gather opinions etc that activates citizen participation.

Civic issues galore but redressal is minimal in city

Ashish VR, Lead, Governance Initiatives, Reap Benefit, said, "At the local governance level, apps like Namma Bengaluru and Sahaaya 2.0 are centralised. The data is not revealed at the citizen level as to how many complaints have been filed in a ward. Through this product, one can be involved in reporting grievances as well as participate with local government representatives and other stakeholders for active local governance. We are engaging the elected representatives to use the tech product, so they can take ownership of a problem. Or a civic leader from the locality or association can push the problems to the ward committee meetings and get it resolved."

A resident of HBR layout said that while it is the duty of the government to provide citizens with basic amenities, citizens too must actively engage with the government and get the issues resolved. "At HBR, citizens have already started using the chatbot and started to add in complaints. We will work together and raise the complaints at the ward committee level and bring in a change in the ward," the resident said.

"With this product, one can be involved in reporting grievances and participate with local government representatives and other stakeholders –Ashish VR, Reap Benefit

Solitary confinement affected well-being: SC

The Supreme Court on Friday commuted death penalty of a rape and murder convict, observing that he was incarcerated in solitary confinement, which led to ill-effects on his well-being.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit noted that BA Umesh was kept in solitary confinement at Belagavi jail for a period of 10 years in violation of law.

"The incarceration in solitary confinement, thus, did show ill effects on the well-being of the appellant. Against the backdrop of these features, in our view, the appellant is entitled to have the death sentence imposed upon him to be commuted to life," said the bench, also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi.

However, the top court said he should undergo a minimum sentence of 30 years before considering any remission plea.

"In our view, ends of justice would be met if while commuting the death sentence awarded to the appellant, we impose upon him sentence of life imprisonment with a rider that he shall undergo minimum sentence of 30 years and if any application for remission is moved on his behalf, the same shall be considered on its own merits only after he has undergone sentence of 30 years," it said.

Umesh moved the apex court challenging the Karnataka High Court's order passed in September 2021, dismissing his plea for quashing the rejection of his mercy plea due to delay. He also questioned the decision to keep him in solidarity confinement since trial court handed down a death penalty to him in 2006.

Death penalty of rape and murder convict commuted to life sentence

The bench noted that in the instant case, the period of solitary confinement is for about ten years and has two elements: one, from 2006 till the disposal of mercy petition in 2013, and secondly from the date of such disposal till 2016.

The top court noted that the entire period beginning from March 3, 2011 to May 15, 2013 spanning over a period of 2 years and 3 months saw disposal of mercy petition at two different levels, one, by the Governor and other by the President.

All the while, there was an order of stay granted by it on March 19, 2011. "The time taken by each of these authorities and the functionaries assisting them cannot be called or termed as 'inordinate delay' and secondly, it was not as if every passing day was adding to the agony of the appellant..." said the apex court.

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

Write to him at c-rajmohan.sudhakar@timesgroup.com

Introspect we must

Socially estranged youths and young adults cry greenwashing as so-called policy pundits are about to discuss the future of the planet at Cop27. Unpredictable weather systems can foil the schemes of the uber rich too.

Meanwhile, angsty souls emphasise the dangers of big oil by splashing soup and mashed potatoes on celebrated works of master oil painters. Symbolic these protests maybe, but as ambitious politicians dilly dally on commitment to mitigate the fallout of the climate emergency, yes, like Rishi Sunak's u-turn, the young who have indeed seen through this greenwashing are the losers.

At the outset, realisation must dawn instead. This is the critical point in time when society must not give in to powers adamant on pushing us back to the dark ages. It feels as though humanity is stuck in a banal spacetime where progress is as good as that drop of water struggling to emerge from an overworked reverse osmosis contraption, before the whole thing shuts down.

Some terrible facts BM highlighted the other day based on a report by the Central Ground Water Authority about the state of Bengaluru's groundwater exploitation and the alarming chemistry of potable water. This is one such instance where a resource is squeezed to imminent depletion in a policy vacuum as the fallout of the climate crisis pummels obsolete urban infra.

What about India's representation at Egypt Cop27 — how involved are the lawmakers, beyond the politicking, to climate proof India and help cushion the effects of this emergency for ordinary citizens? Beyond the greenwashing charge of Greta Thunberg, the demand for climate finance and further advancing of set goals, we have to start somewhere by acknowledging ground realities — for the sake of a multitude at the frontlines along the 7,500-km coastline, their livelihoods at risk, as well as the burgeoning populations in haemorrhaging Indian cities where life has been overwhelmed by extreme weather. The poorest individual is the most vulnerable and primarily the policy shall be for their benefit. A definitive roadmap is in order at least.

On the contrary, the Morbi hanging bridge collapse and the subsequent tragedy management fiasco exposes the shoddy, uncaring and callous approach that reeks of absolute disregard towards infrastructure management and the ambitions of a billion ordinary citizens of this emerging nation.

The fact is, one cannot keep defending the indefensible, even the usual defenders seem dreary and drained, and cannot keep up — the mounting financial burden to raise the facade whenever confronted with a loss of face at the cost of the exchequer notwithstanding. There

cannot be governance without some level of accountability, can it? A man-made tragedy of massive proportions struck Gujarat's Morbi, and pray, where was the media? Waiting for instructions?

This country has weathered numerous tragedies, manmade and natural, pre and post independence. Defining images of past mishaps linger in the collective psyche thanks to the dedication and effort of several journalists who were present at the scene at the time and media houses that helped bring those images and visuals to the drawing rooms back then while adding to historical records.

The measured coverage after the hanging bridge collapse fell back to yet another telling instance, amongst many such scenarios, of the media's downfall. It created a vacuum for certain actors with certain agendas to take over the sacred space of truth and facts to perpetuate the opposite — yet again the public was denied proper press coverage; ain't access to a free press the fundamental right of the citizen in a democracy?

Rishi Sunak's ascent as the prime minister of another country drew more media coverage than the collapse of the hanging bridge at Morbi that killed dozens of innocent citizens. We need serious political introspection at this stage to course correct.

Elsewhere, Brazilians are breathing a sigh of relief now for they did introspect electorally. The world should let that sigh of relief too — indeed the air you and I breathe, we owe it to the Amazon rainforest. In Lula's comeback in that country, marginal a victory nevertheless, the ethos of the south American nation rejected forces that were planning to exploit what's left of the world's largest rainforest and convert it into farms and so forth for the rich in the developed world. How absurd a proposition.

Back in the city, as we try to forget about the infamous Deepawali gift hampers for journalists laden with cash, some overtly 'gifted journalists' up north were busy blaming the Morbi tragedy on the dead. Yes, the departed souls of the tragedy are to be blamed, according to one of them. Strangely, while browsing the internet, I even came across a rather bizarre ad, yes, an online advertisement banner that proclaimed roughly the following: 'watch the CCTV footage of the hanging bridge moments before the tragedy struck'. Absurd, isn't it, the ad?

Shoddy upkeep of shopping centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

interested in sending notices to collect the rent every month. "I have complained to him to fix the water seepage issue but he has done nothing so far. It has become difficult for us to cook food and supply to customers due to the leaky roof," said the eatery owner.

The tenants complained that the BDA engineer did not depute or assign staff to keep the shopping premises clean and neat. "The BDA has not appointed a person to maintain the restrooms. We have to engage people to clean the restrooms," said a tenant.

According to a name board installed by the BDA, the shopping complex has 18 shops accommodating allied services: a service kitchen, a provision store, a video shop, two stationery shops, a hairdresser, a travel service (in two shops), a fast food shop, a coffee shop (in two shops), a dairy supplies centre (in two shops), a cloth centre, a snack bar and a business centre.

"Among the 18 shops, only four shops are open," said a tenant.

Meanwhile, the BDA executive engineer G Kumar said the civic body has a plan to demolish and construct a mall along with other shopping complexes owned by the BDA.

"There is a proposal to construct a mall after demolishing the existing shopping complex as a joint venture. The higher authorities have to take a decision on this proposal," the executive engineer said.

He said that he would visit the shopping complex and take measures to keep the premises clean and neat.

It is said the shopping mall would be constructed after demolishing the existing shopping complex. If all goes well, the BDA would get 30% of the revenue while the builder would get 70% of the revenue from the mall.

Gas lighting: Scientific landfills

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

existing leachate treatment plant," BBMP's solid waste management special commissioner Dr Harish Kumar told BM.

He added that due to the rains, the leachate collected was diluted and can be treated easily now. "Diluted leachate is very useful for agricultural purposes if diluted at a 1:8 ratio. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and chemical oxygen demand (COD) are almost at permissible values. Rains have naturally treated the leachate now and with some more treatment, we will be able to further reduce the BOD levels," added Kumar.

Though BBMP has envisioned a scientific landfill at Baiyappanahalli the land has not been handed over. "The idea behind a scientific landfill is to prevent leachate from percolating. The landfill being developed will be a precautionary measure for the increasing waste generation in the city with an estimated capacity of eight lakhs tonnes. In any processing, 20-25% is inert waste and it should go to the landfill. In future, when we process all types of waste, we don't want the inert waste going to the landfill," Kumar explained.

> **"Letting the methane gas into the environment can lead to an increase in temperature; utilising methane reduces chances of burning**

According to the BBMP, the tender has been finalised and the work order will be given soon. "Once the government gives permission, we will start using methane gas. In very old landfills, there is no question of methane gas and we can only go for bio-mining. If the landfill is new and estimates an age of 5-6 years, we can start capitalising on methane gas also known as bioremediation," the special commissioner added.

There are two methods of using methane gas. One involves burning and converting it into oxygen and carbon dioxide; another involves bottling it for cooking purposes.

"We are calling it the bioremediation method; it's a first of its kind in India. We are trying to do bioremediation in areas where the legacy waste is new. Bottling methane gas is a huge investment and land acquisition near the plant is required. Letting the methane gas into the environment can lead to an increase in temperature; utilising methane reduces chances of burning," Kumar further noted.

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personal

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I, Sarvar Yunus Khan R/o No 107 34th Main, Dollars Scheme Colony, BTM 1st Stage, B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Sarvar Khan for all purposes

I, Prakasha R/o No 11, 2nd Cross, Syndicate Bank Colony, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085, have changed my name to Prakash for all purposes.

I, MOHAMED RAFI, R/a,#38, 1st Floor, Central Street,Hains Road Cross,Frazer Town, Bangalore-05. I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED RAFI, Vide affidavit dated 03/11/2022, Sworn before Notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore

I, ROHIT KUMAR DAK S/o Raj Kumar Dak residing of No.615. 6th Block, 75th Cross, Rajaji nagar, Bengaluru- 560010 have changed my name to GARVIT KUMAR DAK vide affidavit dated 04.11.2022 sworn before notary Renuka .C, Bangalore.

I Divyashree W/O, Prasanna Kumar Bela R/o No 47 Flat No 102 Laxmi Nanda Apartment 1st Cross 7th, Main Nandakumar Loyout Uttarahalli, Bengaluru, 560061 have changed my name to Divyashree K for all purposes.

WE, Sivakumar Sivaprahasam and Kiruthika Sekar, Residents of Flat No B- 002, KPR Elite, Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru - 560035, Karnataka have changed our Son's name from PRANNAV SIVAKUMAAR to PRANAV SIVAAKUMAR vide affidavit dated 04.11.2022. sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I, VISHALKUMAR, Resident of 46074, SOBHA DREAM ACRES PHASE 2, PANATHUR MAIN ROAD, BALAGERE BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560087 have changed my name as VISHALKUMAR BASAPPA GUDDODAGI, dated 04.11.2022.

I, Somashekar R/o #76, 2nd main, 1st cross, Shreyas colony, JP nagar, 7th phase, B'luru 560078 have changed my name to Kothanur Munireddy Somashekar, affidavit Dt.04/11/2022 notary Ganesh Gowda M. V, B'luru.

I, Vijayamahantesh Adappa S/o Adappa Ganganagoudar R/o 11a, 3rd Cross, Jayanthinagar Ext, Horamavu, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to Vijayamahantesh Ganganagouda for all purposes.

I Nayima Begum W/O, Athaulla Shariff R/o Bilal Masjid,khalifa Mohalla, Mulabagilu Kolar Karnataka - 563131 have changed my name to Nayeem Unnisa

I, ABDUL AZEEZ ABDUL SATTAR, R/a,#15/2,2nd Cross, Moore Road,Frazer Town, Bangalore- 560005. I have changed my name to ABDUL AZEEZ, Vide affidavit dated 03/11/2022, Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra Bangalore

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ALL ARE WELCOME

HEALTH TIP: A disruption in gut bacteria is linked to some chronic diseases, including obesity and a myriad of digestive problems

Ultra-processed foods are highly palatable, meaning they are easily overeaten, and activate reward-related regions in the brain

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Dry cough? Try these

Easy home remedies that can soothe your throat short-term

With dry cough being one of the main symptoms of covid, it certainly makes sense to understand it and make note of home remedies for it. For starters, to keep your airways clear of irritating or obstructing substances, your body creates a defensive reflex in the form of a cough, which expels the obstruction, leading you to breathe effectively.

There are two kinds of cough – non-productive and productive. A non-productive cough is usually known as a dry cough; it doesn't produce mucus, while a productive cough produces mucus or phlegm to clear the lungs. Generally, dry coughs linger for weeks post your flu or the cold.

Home Remedies

A dry cough can have a huge impact on your day-to-day life; besides, it can make your sleep unpleasant at night. There are plenty of home remedies for dry cough which are passed on from generation to generation. However, they are considered safe for short-term use only. Apart from environmental factors like smoke, dust, pollution, mold, pollen and other allergies, asthma, pneumonia, sinusitis, tuberculosis, Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), and Interstitial Lung Disease are some of the causes of dry cough, so don't be negligent.

Tip: Keep experimenting with home remedies for dry cough; it may take time, but you will surely find one that suits your body and treats you the best. However, remember that if home remedies are not effective, then it is always advisable to visit your doctor. Especially if the cough gets severe with other symptoms like chills and high fever.

Raw Honey

Honey is one of the oldest home remedies for dry cough. It is natural, anti-inflammatory, and coats your throat. It has antimicrobial effects that can temper minor bacterial or viral infections. It is the best alternative for adults as well as children, but it should not be given to children under the age of two years. Honey triggers the salivary glands to produce more saliva, which in turn lubricates your airways and eases your cough.

Tip: Take a tablespoon of honey daily one to three times a day for controlling your dry cough. You can also take honey by adding it to a cup of hot water or herbal tea and drink it twice a day.

Turmeric

Another multifunctional remedy is turmeric, which contains curcumin. It has anti-inflammatory, anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties, so all these are beneficial for several issues including dry cough. Turmeric is a centuries-old Ayurvedic medicine that can treat arthritis to respiratory diseases.

Tip: You can add a teaspoon of turmeric to hot milk or any other hot beverage and have it before sleeping at night to avoid irritation in the throat. Also, you can take 500 mg of turmeric powder directly twice a day.

> **A non-productive cough is usually known as a dry cough; it doesn't produce mucus, while a productive cough produces mucus or phlegm to clear the lungs**

Ginger

Ginger has anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties that boost immunity as well as help in relieving discomfort. It is one of the effective home remedies for dry coughs as it is an expectorant that will expel mucus and reduce the intensity of coughing bouts.

Tip: You can opt for teas that have ginger as an ingredient. You can also have half a teaspoon of ginger powder added to a cup of hot water, thrice daily. Alternatively, mix a tablespoon of ginger juice and raw honey and have it twice daily. Note that too much ginger can upset your stomach.

Steam

Breathing in steam is one of the best home remedies for dry coughs as it helps in loosening the mucus. You can also add varied essential oils for added healing. Even without an additive, warm steam can help moisturize dry and irritated nasal passages, ease throat pain, and reduce the severity of the cough.

To make steam, simply take a large bowl full of hot water; add a couple of drops of essential oils like Nilgiri oil (eucalyptus oil), rosemary oil, and tea tree oil. Lean over the bowl with a towel over your head and inhale the vapor for five minutes. If the steam feels too hot on your skin, then quickly discontinue it.

Tip: You can also turn on a hot shower and allow the bathroom to fill up with steam. Stay in this steam for a while till you feel the symptoms have subsided.

Salt Water Gargles

Doctors always advise the patient to do saltwater gargles when it comes to adopting home remedies for dry cough due to their effectiveness in easing a sore throat. Saltwater is osmotic, which changes the direction of fluids; it draws moisture away from the area of soreness which helps in reducing swelling as well as the irritation caused by a dry cough.

Take a glass full of warm water and stir in a half tablespoon of salt. Allow it to cool down before gargling. The saltwater needs to stay for a few seconds at the back of your throat before you spit it out. Repeat and do it for a few days for proper effect.

Tip: Gargle salt water multiple times a day until the cough improves. Avoid giving younger children saltwater to gargle as they may swallow it which might be harmful.

Thyme Tea

Thyme has been in medicinal use since the Black Plague in Europe. It contains a compound that is antispasmodic, helping relax the muscles of the throat. Apart from being a good home remedy for dry cough and sore throat, thyme also contains antioxidant properties that relieve digestive issues.

Tip: Drink some thyme tea a couple of times each day. You can sweeten it using honey or add lemon juice for taste.

Causes For Dry Cough

A persistent dry cough that keeps you up at night can be quite irritating. In addition to typically being viewed as a communicable infection, it may be caused by non-contagious factors such as acid reflux or allergies.

Tip: In all age groups, a dry or non-productive cough is most commonly caused by a small bacterial or viral infection, according to surveys. However, diseases such as Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and Pharyngitis are less likely to affect younger individuals.

—Khushali Thakar (Femina)

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a 48-year-old man and I've been married for 20 years. We have a 16-year-old daughter and a son who is 18. My problem is, I'm very unhappy in my marriage. I didn't always feel this way - things were great for the first 10 years, but my wife has changed a lot and I'm not in love with her any more. It's the usual story - I stayed for the kids and also because I care about my wife. She doesn't feel the same and doesn't want a divorce. I've talked to her in the past about how miserable I am in the marriage, but she gets angry and defensive and won't listen.
I struggle to understand why she wants us to stay married when she stopped making any effort a long time ago.

COLEEN SAYS

You obviously feel a great deal of responsibility for your wife and her feelings, and that's what's kept you going in the marriage. Of course, it's a sad situation when you've been together so long and you were once very happy. There's no getting away from that I'm afraid and, though you're the one driving a separation, you'll feel that heartache, too.

But, and it's a big but, you can't stay with someone out of pity or guilt. Even though you're managing the situation now, it'll become harder. And will be harder to separate amicably.

She could be unhappy, too, but is clinging on to the marriage out of fear.

It's not going to be easy, but you have to get past the shouting and actually talk about how you move forward. Ask her if she's truly happy or just afraid of taking a leap into the unknown. Couples therapy could help you both with this transition, but especially your wife, as she'll feel supported and able to express herself in a safe space.

Get as much support from family and friends as possible, and good luck.

–Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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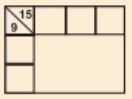
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

A particular month has 5 Sundays. The first and the last days of the month are not Sundays. Which day is the first day?

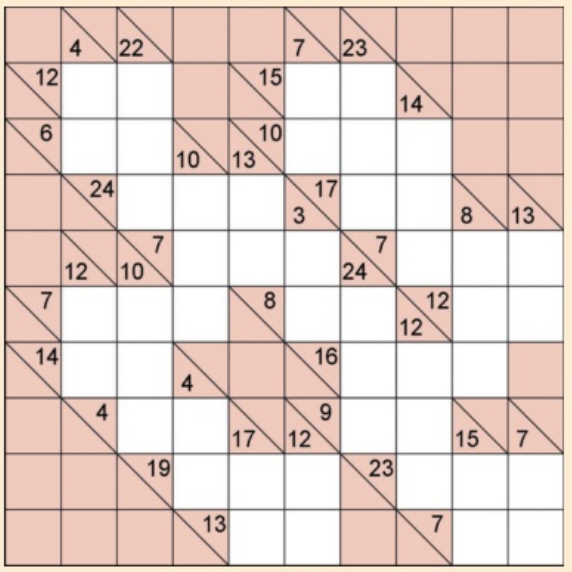
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

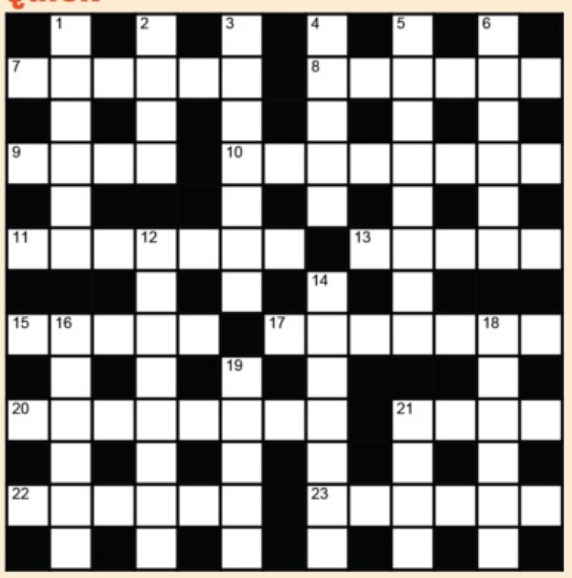


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Producer of steam? (6)
8 We sit on them (6)
9 Nimble (4)
10 Consumes (8)
11 Digress, diverge or veer (7)
13 Imperial weight (5)
15 Inflated (5)
17 News (7)
20 Distinguished fighters (8)
21 A blessing (4)
22 Thin coating (6)
23 A friend in need is a friend ___? (6)

DOWN

1 A pair or two? (6)
2 Artful dodge (4)
3 ___ up : made into a parcel? (7)
4 Extreme contempt (5)
5 Tubular pasta (8)
6 British comic role (2,4)
12 Film report (8)
14 Waterproofed cloth (7)
16 Person in front (6)
18 Glare, scowl or pout (6)
19 Holiday spot in Karnataka (5)
21 Kips or cots (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS G

I EVYIP GOSYPQXIOSTOL BD OYLIXTMY YRBXTBOQ STQRTQQYQ XUYR.

Linemaro

I can't promise to fix all your problems, but I can promise you won't have to face them alone

Mindchow

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'!

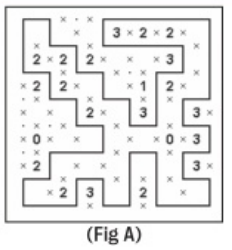
Joke of the day

If you die in an elevator, be sure to push the up button.

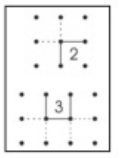
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



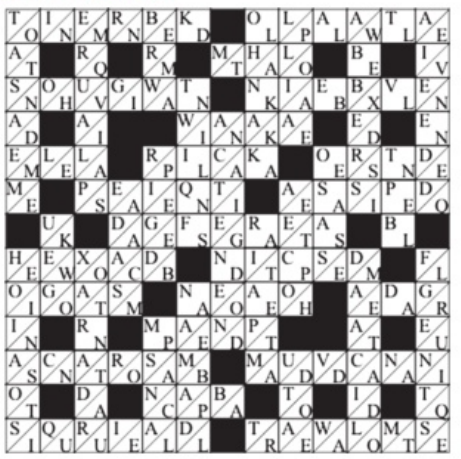
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

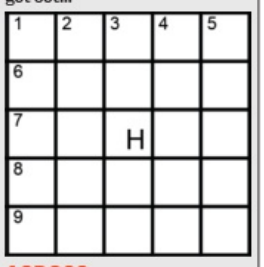
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Be pro; 6 Irate; 7 Choir; 8 Tents; 9 Mr Hit

DOWN

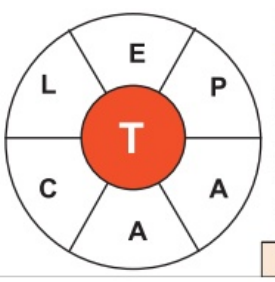
1 Prims; 2 Citer; 3 Throe; 4 Tobin; 5 Herat

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

71, 81, 74, 77, 77, 73, 80, 69, ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7		6				3		8
		3	6		1	2		
			3	7	2			
2	4						8	1
			9		4			
6	3						9	2
			2	4	7			
		5	1		9	6		
9		2				1		3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6

2 3 5 6

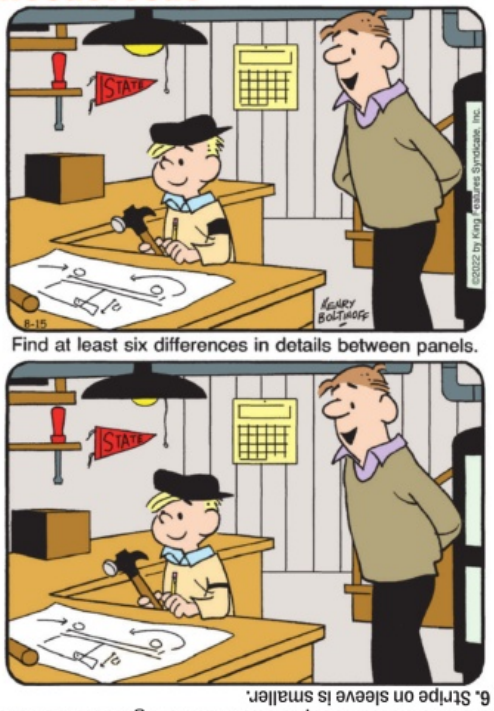
Medium = 12

1 3 3 7

Hard = 49

5 7 7 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

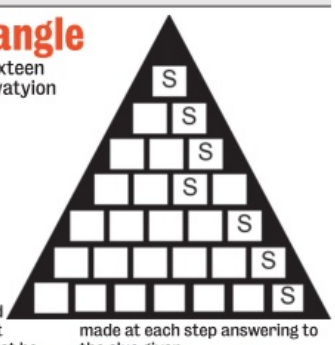
Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. **2.** Hammer is longer. **3.** Box is moved. **4.** Cap is tilted back. **5.** Light bulb is smaller. **6.** Stripe on sleeve is smaller.

Riddler

What is the next number in the series: 46,755; 5,202; 585; 72; ??

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number Sixteen
2 Oversized, abbrevatyion
3 Some parties
4 Medicine amount
5 Symbols of peace
6 YouTube viewing
7 Underhanded



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE COMPLAINING!
"YOU'RE ALWAYS WANTING THE KIND OF THINGS THE PALEFACES HAVE!
8-19
WELL, A SPIRAL STAIRCASE WASN'T ONE OF THEM!
Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MOM, CAN I GO TO A PARTY AT 8 P.M. ON TUESDAY?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
THAT'S SO LATE AT NIGHT! AND YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY. AND WHAT PARTIES ARE EVEN HAPPENING ON A TUESDAY?
IT'S A BOOK RELEASE PARTY! FOR THE "FIVE OF RAVENS" SERIES!
OOOHH! THEN OF COURSE YOU CAN GO!
NOTES:
NOTE TO SELF: TELL MOM ALL PARTIES ARE BOOK RELEASE PARTIES.
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Crankshaft

OKAY, IF THERE'S A FIRE AND WE HAVE TO EXIT THE HOUSE...
WHAT'S THE ONE THING WE HAVE TO REMEMBER TO DO?
GRAB THE LIST WITH ALL THE ONLINE PASSWORDS!
BATIUK & DAVIS crankshaftcomic.com/books
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Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20
Today your destiny may help you get success in an easy way. You are likely to visit some spiritual place to seek peace of mind. You may spend your time learning something intellectual or occult-related. Students may do well. Singles are likely to find a good match. Lovebirds may take some important decisions in terms of marriage.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20
Today you may be busy at work. With the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon, which will make you happy. Last week's crunches are now over. With the help of elders, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate postponed projects. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finances.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23
Today you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in business. Your gains may likely convert into losses.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you will be happy. You may feel peaceful and calm. Your focus towards your goals will be very good. You are likely to have romantic moments with your spouse. Your bonding with your spouse may be stronger now. You will also be busy with other domestic issues.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23
Today you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good. it may boost your terms with your seniors. You are likely to get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22
Today you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily, which may boost your confidence levels. Your past investments may give you good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics as it may waste your precious time.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22
Today is not good. You may feel unhappy and dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep patience and you should not take any decisions in a hurry. You are advised to take care of your parents.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22
Today you may take decisions very fast, which will benefit your day-to-day life. You may take some difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues. You are likely to get success easily. Property-related disputes between siblings are likely to be resolved. You may also expect some short trips.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20
Today you are advised to control your straightforwardness. Your loose talk may affect people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless items. Your mind is likely to work very fast. It is advised to make any important decision with patience.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the moon. Disappointments may now convert to happiness. You may enjoy your professional and personal life. Your network may help you complete postponed projects. You may start some new venture with the help of your siblings, and your network may support you in every step.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20
Today you may be busy at work. Your focus towards your goals may be tested many times. Your patience may help you achieve your goals on time. Your dedication towards your work may be tested many times. You are likely to get some rewards as a result of your hard work. You are likely to make investments in fixed assets.

KIDZONE

J Teju Camarine, 11 Years, Clarence Public School

Rushil Bali, 10 Years, St Josephs Boys High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
S S M T W T F
S S M T W T F
S S M T W T F
S S M T W T F
S S
SATURDAY

RIDDLER
15 (/9, +7)

FAST FIVE

M	I	R	T	H
S	T	E	N	T
I	C	H	O	R
R	E	T	I	A
P	R	O	B	E

QUOTE UNCODE
A clear understanding of negative emotions dismisses them.

STRIKE OUT

T	I	E	R	E	D	L	P	L	A	T	E			
A	Q	O	R	M	A	L	B	V						
N	O	U	G	A	T	N	I	B	B	L	E			
D	A	W	A	K	E	E	N							
E	E	L	P	I	C	A	E	S	N	E				
M	S	A	I	N	T	E	A	S	E	D				
H	E	X	A	D	E	S	E	R	T	S	B			
O	G	A	M	N	O	A	H	E	A	R				
B	L	O	W	N	T	I	D	I	N	G	S			
M	E	A	N	D	E	R	P	O	U	N	D			
S	P	R	Y	P	A	R	T	A	K	E	S			
B	O	I	L	E	R	C	H	A	I	R	S			
C	P	W	S	M	M									

QUICK

R	L	G	N	S	R									
V	E	N	E	R	I	N	D	E	E	D				
D	E	O	K	E	W									
W	A	R	R	I	O	R	S	B	O	O	N			
E	S	C	L											
B	L	O	W	N	T	I	D	I	N	G	S			
E	D	O	N											
M	E	A	N	D	E	R	P	O	U	N	D			
L	P	N	R	A										
P	A	R	T	A	K	E	S							
U	O	A	O	C	B									
C	H	A	I	R	S									
S	M													

MENSA PUZZLE
83: there are two alternate sequences: +3 and -4.

BULL'S EYE
cleat, late, leapt, pleat, talc, tale, tape, teal

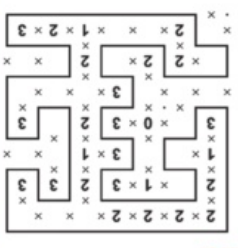
GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 3–5 + 6 = 6
Medium
7 + 3 + 3–1 = 12
Hard
5–5 + 7 x 7 = 49

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, OS, Dos, Dose, Doves, Videos, Devious.

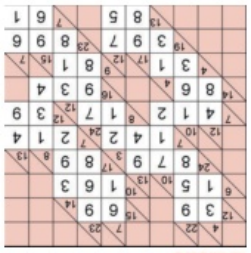
SUDOKU

9	7	2	8	5	6	1	4	3
4	8	5	1	3	9	6	2	7
3	6	1	2	4	7	8	5	9
6	3	7	5	1	8	4	9	2
1	5	8	9	2	4	7	3	6
2	4	9	7	6	3	5	8	1
8	1	4	3	7	2	9	6	5
5	9	3	6	8	1	2	7	4
7	2	6	4	9	5	3	1	8

LOOP



KAKURO



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HATE WATCH

Shruti Haasan's indepth take on boycott culture

Shruti Haasan recently opened up about the ongoing boycott Bollywood campaigns and cancel culture. According to her, this hate culture is a representation of the society we live in.

Spilling some beans on the same, the actress told a news portal that it is not just films. According to her, there are many layers to it. The actress also added that we all need to take a step back and understand why those people are losing it. Nothing we see is what it appears to be.

Elaborating further, Shruti added that the cancel culture is an extension of bullying, exposing or attacking a group of people, and exposing or digging up words from the past. We are seeing it because of the film industry, but people need to realise that the culture online is a representation of what's happening in the society, the actress told Hindustan Times.

The actress also went on to add that the world overall has become an unnecessary negative space. Talking about the kind of hate she herself has to face personally, she stated that she is called names such as 'chudail' (witch).

—ETimes

Couple goals

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh never miss an opportunity to express their love for each other. The actress recently reacted to Ranveer Singh blowing kisses on her photo at a store launch.

Sharing the picture, Deepika wrote, 'Find someone who looks at you like you are their whole universe @ranveersingh.' In another Instagram story, Deepika dropped a heart emoji for her dashing husband.

Recently, reports were rife that all was not well in Deepika and Ranveer's paradise. However, the couple has neither denied nor confirmed any such reports. However, it has indeed been a while since fans have seen Ranveer and Deepika together at a social event.

Meanwhile, Ranveer had recently shared a video where he was seen having a fun time with Deepika on a yacht. Twinning in black and white outfits, the couple looked happy as ever. **— ETimes**

Star without the starry air

Radhika Apte has often broken the mould when it comes to her roles on screen. The actor chooses roles that appeal to her, minus the glitz and glamour. This however, she says has often gone against her and she has struggled to find good roles in Hindi films as she does not behave like a "star".

In a recent interview, Radhika mentioned that she is a no-frills actor, an image that does not go down well with makers and casting directors. According to her, stars have an image that includes arriving in luxury cars, being fashionably late and not even repeating their clothes! She says that she neither has the time nor bandwidth to do all this, as she would like to concentrate at the job in hand, which is acting! She admits that this has impacted her career! **— ETimes**

A time for love

BANARAS

3 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Jayatheertha
- **ACTORS** Zaid Khan, Sonal Monteiro, Sujay Shastry, Devaraj, Achyuth Kumar, Barkath Ali
- **Duration** 160 minutes

Banaras is the second movie in Kannada made based on the time loop concept. Thurthu Nirgamana that released last June also explored this concept.

Banaras begins with Siddarth Simha aka Siddhu (Zaid Khan) introducing himself to Dhani (Sonal Monteiro) who is at a cultural event along with her friend Chethan. Siddhu tells Dhani that they are meant to be together and even predicts that the two will have a baby girl child in the near future. To gain her confidence, Siddhu tells her accurately what her hobbies are and what her background is. He somehow manages to make her allow him to stay the night at her room. He takes a selfie with her while she is asleep and sends it to his friends. One of his friends, who has no other work to do, posts that picture on social media. The picture goes viral on social media and compels Dhani to leave for Banaras to stay with her uncle and aunt. At this juncture, the director tells the audiences that Sidhu did all this just for fun and to impress his friends. Sidhu, as per his father's advice, leaves for Banaras to beg Dhani's pardon. Will Sidhu succeed in meeting Dhani and win her love? You will have to watch the film to know.

As far as performance of the artistes is concerned, Zaid Khan, who makes debut as a hero with this movie, has acted like an experienced actor. He is very good in love as well as suspense scenes. He will have a bright future if he hones up his acting skills. Sonal Monterio looks beautiful. The chemistry between Zaid and her on the screen is very good. She is good in romantic and emotional scenes. Sujay Shastry, as a dejected lover who is compelled to become a photographer of death at Varanasi, is at his best. His dialogue delivery and body language are very good. His meaningful dialogues are filled with emotion. Devaraj, as a good human being and concerned father, has acted well. Achyuth Kumar, as Narasimha Shastry from Nanjangud who works as a professor in Banaras, is also at his best.

Director Jayatheertha deserves appreciation for selecting a unique subject and also making all the artistes, including Zaid Khan, to follow the script faithfully. Banaras would have really hit the mark, had he tightened the film by 10 to 20 minutes, especially in the second half. But it is a good watch if you enjoy the time loop concept and if you want to vicariously visit Banaras, which is also known as Kashi.

—Y Maheswara Reddy